

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A joint for a superconducting cable, the joint being for jointing two lengths of the superconducting cable with each other, the superconducting cable comprising a former, a superconducting conductor, and an insulating layer; the construction of the joint comprising the steps of:
  - (a) preparing a jointing ferrule for jointing the formers;
  - (b) sliding the jointing ferrule over the end portions of the formers to be jointed;
  - (c) butting the end faces of the formers against each other in the jointing ferrule;
  - (d) compressing the jointing ferrule onto the end portions of the formers to be jointed so as to joint the formers such that the compressed ferrule ~~has~~ and one of the end portions have a combined diameter approximately equal to that of a remaining portion of the former of the superconducting cable;
  - (e) butting the end faces of the superconducting conductors to be jointed against each other at the outside of the compressed ferrule; and
  - (f) jointing the superconducting conductors with each other such that the jointed superconducting conductors have a diameter equal to that of the superconducting conductor of the superconducting cable.
2. (Original) A joint for a superconducting cable as defined by claim 1, wherein the construction of the joint further comprises the step of providing a restoring insulating layer at the outside of the superconducting conductor such that the restoring insulating layer has a diameter equal to that of the insulating layer of the superconducting cable.
3. (Original) A joint for a superconducting cable as defined by claim 2, wherein:
  - (a) the superconducting cable further comprises a shielding layer; and
  - (b) the construction of the joint further comprises the steps of:

- (b1) butting the end faces of the shielding layers to be jointed against each other at the outside of the restoring insulating layer; and
  - (b2) jointing the shielding layers with each other such that the jointed shielding layers have a diameter equal to that of the shielding layer of the superconducting cable.
4. (Previously Presented) A joint for a superconducting cable as defined by claim 1, wherein:
- (a) the superconducting cable yet further comprises a channel for a coolant that cools the superconducting conductor; and
  - (b) the joint comprises an outer case that can secure a coolant channel having a cross-sectional area nearly equal to that of the coolant channel of the superconducting cable.
5. (Previously Presented) A joint for a superconducting cable as defined by claim 2, wherein:
- (a) the superconducting cable yet further comprises a channel for a coolant that cools the superconducting conductor; and
  - (b) the joint comprises an outer case that can secure a coolant channel having a cross-sectional area nearly equal to that of the coolant channel of the superconducting cable.
6. (Previously Presented) A joint for a superconducting cable as defined by claim 3, wherein:
- (a) the superconducting cable yet further comprises a channel for a coolant that cools the superconducting conductor; and
  - (b) the joint comprises an outer case that can secure a coolant channel having a cross-sectional area nearly equal to that of the coolant channel of the superconducting cable.
7. (New) A joint for a superconducting cable as defined by claim 1, the remaining portion of the former is adjacent the end portion of the former.
8. (New) A joint for a superconducting cable as defined by claim 1, the remaining portion of the former is not in contact with the jointing ferrule.